



Tempe Public Art



Melissa Martinez

In Bloom, 2015

Steel, powder coat, and imprints

Location:

Hardy Drive Streetscape
University Drive to Broadway Road

Artist Website:

www.HoweStreetStudio.com

Description: Palo Verde trees bloom profusely in the spring. Thousands of tiny yellow flowers dance and spin through the air on the wind, rain down from the trees, and cover the ground. The monumental steel sculpture located in the median at Hardy Drive and 13th Street, an abstract Palo Verde tree, features yellow metal pinwheels – flowers – covering the canopy. When the wind blows, the pinwheels spin, creating a dynamic representation of the flowers and tree. The wind-blown Palo Verde motif continues on Hardy Drive with pinwheel flowers adorning bus shelters, and flower shaped imprints in the sidewalk nearby. Commuters can reflect on the beauty of springtime all year long as they travel down Hardy Drive between University Drive and Broadway Road.

Artist biography: The spectacular beauty of nature and emotional experiences directly inspire Martinez's artwork. She empathizes with nature, which motivates her to contemplate her feelings about her life's greatest gifts and challenges. Martinez draws from her studies of the Sonoran Desert, poisonous plants, medicinal plants, plant biology and reproduction, weather, and weather related phenomena, and many other natural wonders. She utilizes natural materials, movements, and phenomena that are often overlooked, creating works that focus upon basic beauty and the oddity of simplicity. Martinez received a BFA in sculpture from ASU, and has exhibited her work in museums and galleries across the U.S., including the Phoenix Art Museum, and completed numerous public art commissions in the Phoenix Metro Area.

Funding: The project was funded through City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund.